

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 EB-07 /058 W

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R 050853Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7468

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA, JA

CINCPAC HONOLULU, HI

SECDEF WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3383

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MARR, PINT, JA

SUBJ: REACTION TO BROWN VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 2501

1. ALTHOUGH JCS CHAIRMAN BROWN'S FIVE DAY VISIT TO JAPAN
TOOK PLACE IN THE MIDST OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR, JAPAN'S
BIGGEST POST-WAR SCANDAL, IT PROCEEDED QUIETLY AND
UNINTERRUPTEDLY TO A CLOSE ON MARCH 4. GENERAL BROWN HAD
BRIEF, INFORMAL TALKS ON MARCH 1 WITH JDA DIRGEN SAKATA
AND JOINT STAFF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN GENERAL SHIRAKAWA. IN A
PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING OF PROMOTING ANNUAL
SECDEF-JDA DIRGEN TALKS AND ALSO THAT GENERAL BROWN HAD
REACTED FAVORABLY IN PRINCIPLE TO JDA PROPOSAL IN WHICH
JAPAN WOULD MANUFACTURE BODIES FOR AN ASW AIRCRAFT
("PXL") WITH THE US SUPPLYING THE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS.
ALSO SURFACING AT THE MEETING WAS SAKATA'S STATEMENT
THAT, WHILE HE WOULD INVITATION TO TALKS
WITH SECDEF, HE COULDN'T (IN MIDST OF DIET BUDGET
HEARINGS AND LOCKHEED AFFAIR) TELL WHEN HE WOULD BE
ABLE TO GO TO WASHINGTON.

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2. MID-LEVEL JDA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ALTHOUGH GENERAL BROWN'S VISIT HAD NO IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE THEY WERE PLEASED THAT IT HAD TAKEN PLACE AS PLANNED DESPITE THE CURRENT SCANDAL. THEY FEEL THE SCHLESINGER VISIT TO TOKYO, DEP JDA DIRGEN KUBO' VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND NOW GENERAL BROW'S VISIT TO TOKYO HAVE PRODUCED A MOMENTUM WHICH, IF SAKATA CAN VISIT WASHINGTON, COULD BE CONSOLIDATED.

3. REACTION TO VISIT WAS LOW KEY. RADICAL LEFTIST GROUPS HAD REPORTEDLY ORGANIZED LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS IN TOKYO AND AT YOKOTA AB AND THOROUGH POLICE PREPARATIONS WERE MADE. PERHAPS DUE TO COLD RAIN, ONLY FEEBLE SHOWINGS MATERIALIZED. TOKYO PRESS AND TV NEWS, DEVOTING THE BULK OF THEIR STORIES TO LOCKHEED, GAVE RELATIVELY SMALL COVERAGE TO THE BROWN VISIT. EVEN AKAHATA, THE JCP DAILY, RAN ONLY A SMALL ARTICLE CRITICIZING THE VISIT AS AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE JAPANESE REARMAMENT.
SOESMITH

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